

SPANISH 141: SPAIN TODAY

SPRING QUARTER

1. COURSE INFORMATION

<i>Professor</i>	---	<i>Office</i>	ACCENT Madrid Study Center
<i>E-mail</i>	---	<i>Phone</i>	91 308 59 79
<i>Office hours</i>	1 hour per week		
<i>Class Schedule</i>	4 hours per week		
<i>Location</i>	ACCENT Study Center		

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this class is to better understand today's Spanish culture and civilization, the goal being that the students, through acquiring a wide range of knowledge about historical and current events in Spain, can obtain the tools to become better integrated into Spanish society during their stay in Madrid. The following subject themes will be among those used to get to know the country and its peoples:

- Cultural traditions
- Politics, from dictatorship to democracy, the monarchy today
- Geography, the Autonomies and cultural diversity
- Religion and family values
- Social issues today

Besides the textbook readings, students are expected to stay updated with current events as much as possible through local media (Spanish and English newspapers: elpais.com, abc.es, elmundo.es, typicallyspanish.com), and to participate in specific visits to places that are relevant to the subjects being studied.

3. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will acquire a holistic understanding of present day Spain
- Students will be able to participate in meaningful discussions about Spanish culture and politics
- Students will develop their critical thinking
- Students will be able to identify similarities and differences between the Spanish and the American social and cultural history

4. CLASS MATERIALS

Required Materials

Hooper, John. *The New Spaniards*. 2nd Edition. London: Penguin Books, 2006. ISBN: 978-0-14-101609-2
**Available for purchase at Booksellers bookstore.*

Recommended Materials

Newspapers in English and Spanish: – El País (www.elpais.com)
– El Mundo (www.elmundo.es)
– ABC (www.abc.es)
– Typically Spanish (www.typicallyspanish.com)

5. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Homework

Homework, besides the assigned reading, will consist of a total of four written assignments, two of which will be based on assigned topics (see list below), and two open to personal choice regarding matters the students wish to examine and write about, concerning **self reflection** about their experiences and observations and **what these reveal about Spain**. They may be turned in to the professor in class on or before the following deadlines by 5pm:

- 1st Assignment: **Week 3 Session 2**
- 2nd Assignment: **Week 5 Session 2**
- 3rd Assignment: **Week 7 Session 2**
- 4th Assignment: **Week 9 Session 2**

List of topics for written assignments:

- Spanish music (traditional or contemporary, a group or person)
- Spanish cinema (may NOT be one of the movies watched for Cine Español class)
- Public behavior
- Spanish food
- Shopping for food at a traditional Spanish market
- A visit to a Spanish museum dealing with historical, anthropological or cultural issues
- The elderly in Spain
- Children in Spain
- Local political issues in Madrid
- A conversation with a Spaniard
- One of the group trips or visits

Partial Exams

There will be two exams. Each will cover the material read and discussed in class up to the date of the exam, and will consist of definition of terms and short answer questions.

Final Exam

The final exam aims at evaluating the students' understanding of the readings and class discussions as well as the students' development of their own critical thinking. The final exam will be comprehensive and will cover all course contents. The exam will consist of concept definition and short essay-type questions, which will require students to demonstrate their knowledge of specific terms, concepts, and historical landmarks, and to compose their ideas in one or more paragraphs addressing specific topics related to course contents.

Class Attendance & Participation

Participation will be often based on questions asked in class regarding the reading assigned for that day and observations the students might make about current events or personal experiences that are relevant to Spanish society.

6. EVALUATION

The course grade will be determined as follows:

– Partial Exam #1	15%
– Partial Exam #2	15%
– Final Exam	30%
– Homework	20%
– Class Attendance & Participation	20%

The course numerical grade will be transferred as a letter grade according to the following standard criteria:

A:	90 - 100	(<i>outstanding degree of competence</i>)
B:	80 - 89	(<i>good degree of competence</i>)
C:	70 - 79	(<i>adequate degree of competence</i>)
D:	60 - 69	(<i>basic degree of competence</i>)
F:	0 - 59	(<i>failure to demonstrate a basic degree of competence</i>)

7. ATTENDANCE POLICY

ACCENT and UC Davis require regular and punctual class attendance. Thus, students are expected to prepare for and attend class regularly, and in case of anticipated or unanticipated absences, to inform the instructor promptly.

Students are allowed a total of two absences during the program. Each absence beyond the limit will result in a deduction of **2 percent points from the student's raw total**. Students will be allowed to complete assignments or examinations in case of an excused absence **due to illness, ACCENT or university approved activities, and major emergencies upon presentation of documentation to the instructor prior to or immediately upon the student's return to class**. However, students will be responsible for all course work missed due to an unexcused absence. The two absences are not two days of vacation, they are supposed to cover the emergencies and illnesses.

8. CLASS ETIQUETTE

Students studying abroad are ambassadors for the University of California, Davis, and as such, should act with decorum and respect for others at all times. As a participant on the UC Davis Program in Madrid, you are subject to student conduct policies of UC Davis, ACCENT, and the Instituto Internacional.

Students should seek to play their part in making the class a success. Students should arrive punctually for classes, taking special care to allow for journey times between the various venues. They should come to class with the necessary materials for taking notes, and bringing with them any books or suchlike required for the class. *Students will be responsible for obtaining their own copies of any missed assignments and materials.*

Food and drink may NOT be brought into the classroom or consumed during class. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be switched off upon entering the classroom or lecture room.

9. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students should remember that they are still subject to the academic integrity provisions of the University of California, Davis. The principle of honesty must be upheld if the integrity of scholarship is to be maintained by an academic community.

This means that all academic work—research papers, exams, and/or other assignments—will be done by the student to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind.

For more information, please consult UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct at <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/cac.html>.

10. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

UC Davis and ACCENT are committed to facilitating welcoming and reasonably accessible programs. Any student who because of a disability may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirement should present appropriate verification from the UC Davis Student Disability Center, and should meet with ACCENT Madrid Director upon arrival to confirm the approved accommodations.

No requirement exists that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved university procedure. Disability status is confidential and should always be discussed in private.

For more information, please consult the Official website for UC Davis Student Disability Center at <https://sdc.ucdavis.edu>.

11. COURSE CALENDAR

Date	Class Contents	Reading Assignments and Homework
<i>WEEK 1</i>	Introduction and Expectations	Maps pgs. xiv-vi & Ch. 16, pgs. 217-230
<i>WEEK 2</i>	History and Geography	Ch. 8, pgs. 91-107
<i>WEEK 2</i>	Religion & Holy Week Celebrations	Ch. 30, pgs. 410-426
<i>WEEK 3</i>	Los Toros: The Bullfight Explained	Ch. 20, pgs. 273-282
<i>WEEK 3</i>	Autonomies	Handout on politics Last day to turn in 1st Assignment
<i>WEEK 4</i>	Politics: Parties and People Involved Review for Partial Exam #1	
<i>WEEK 4</i>	PARTIAL EXAM #1	Ch. 13, pgs. 163-186
<i>WEEK 5</i>	The Monarchy	Ch. 25, pgs. 332-345
<i>WEEK 5</i>	Legal System	Ch. 23, pgs. 308-318 Last day to turn in 2nd Assignment
<i>WEEK 6</i>	Education	Ch. 28-29, pgs. 377-409
<i>WEEK 6</i>	Art & Culture	Ch. 9, pgs. 108-122
<i>WEEK 7</i>	Sex	Ch. 11, pgs. 134-144
<i>WEEK 7</i>	Family	Ch. 10, pgs. 123-133 Last day to turn in 3rd Assignment
<i>WEEK 8</i>	Machismo Review for Partial Exam #2	
<i>WEEK 8</i>	PARTIAL EXAM #2	Ch. 12, pgs. 145-159
<i>WEEK 9</i>	Vices: Coffee, Alcohol, Gambling	Ch. 21, pgs. 285-295
<i>WEEK 9</i>	Prejudice and Racism	Last day to turn in 4th Assignment
<i>WEEK 10</i>	In-Class Debate & Course Conclusions	
<i>WEEK 10</i>	FINAL EXAM	

NOTE: This syllabus is tentative and subject to change based on the needs of the course. Changes, if any, will be discussed in class in advance, and announced to the students and to the coordination office.